

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2004-074

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: Skull Creek Mine Fire

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NESE, SENE Sec 35, NWSW Sec 36, T3N, R102W, 6th PM

APPLICANT: Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology (CDMG)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: The Glenwood Springs 2002 Coal Seam Fire was started by a coal seam that has been on fire since 1910. Since the fire, an inventory of existing coal seam fires and their fire potential was conducted by Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology (CDMG). Two locations were identified in Rio Blanco County where mitigation would be beneficial. One is located on public land and is named by the CDMG as the Skull Creek Mine Fire.

Proposed Action: CDMG proposes to drill approximately 20 holes 40-60 feet deep into the underlying coal seam and fire. The holes will be cased and instrumented to monitor the temperature and combustion gases. Upon completion of drilling and casing the holes, foams will be injected into the wells to attempt extinguishing the fire. Foams considered for use are benign and are not easily mobilized once injected. Monitoring of the down hole temperatures and gases will occur during and after injection. All Drill holes will either be abandoned using appropriate abandonment materials when no longer needed or fitted with airtight locking caps if they are to be used for long term monitoring. Long term monitoring is not anticipated to exceed two years.

Drilling will occur using the following equipment; a track mounted drill rig, trailer mounted air compressor, a trailer or skid mounted foam generator, and 2-3 pick-up trucks. Access to the drilling locations will be from an existing road that extends south of Rio Blanco County Road 96 (see attached map). The proposed access road will need to be slightly upgraded to allow equipment to be transported to the site. At the end of the access road two primitive two tracks will be used (see map) for drilling the holes, accommodating drill equipment and support trucks. Individual pads will not be constructed. Following project completion the tracks will be ripped

and reseeded. Water will be used during the drilling and returns will be filtered through either a silt fence or straw bales to remove sediment prior to discharge.

Timing of the project will be from mid October through mid December.

No Action Alternative: Wells would not be drilled and foams not injected into the burning coal seams.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:

NEED FOR THE ACTION: Information obtained from the drilling and injection program will help determine measures that are effective in controlling and/or extinguishing active coal seam fires.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: 2-7

Decision Language: Ensure that federal coal resources identified as acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing, are available for exploration, leasing and development.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located at an old, historic mine site. Evaluation of the mine site location indicates that extensive reclamation efforts in the past has left only the spoil piles, the collapsed adits and part of the area where some limited strip mining

may have been carried out. All other indications of the mine such as buildings, historic refuse or mine equipment has been totally removed/reclaimed.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed efforts to suppress the mine fire will not have any impact on a historic property as defined in the regulations at 36 CFR 800.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to cultural resources under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: The project area is a Pinyon/juniper woodland site of predominantly Utah juniper. The understory is very sparse grasses and forbs. The soils are very shallow but when disturbed reclaim readily.

With the exception of cheatgrass no other noxious weed species are known to occur in the area. The area is suitable habitat for several noxious weed species with the knapweed species of particular concern.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There is the opportunity for the construction equipment or support vehicles to transport noxious weed seeds onto the project site. If this were to occur, these species are expected to expand and colonize in the adjacent native plant communities. With reclamation there is expected to be less opportunity for noxious weeds to establish because of the competitive nature of the seeded species. With control of noxious weeds that do occur, by the attached mitigation, there would not be any adverse impacts to the adjacent native plant communities.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: From Appendix B, of the White River ROD/RMP; June 1997 apply the following Conditions of Approval (COA):

179. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

180. All disturbed sites shall be promptly reclaimed to the satisfaction of the Area Manager.

181. Reclamation should be implemented concurrent with construction and site operations to the fullest extent possible. Final reclamation actions shall be initiated within six months of the termination of operations unless otherwise approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

182. The goal for rehabilitation of any disturbed area shall be the permanent restoration of original site conditions and productive capability.

183. Disturbed areas shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original contour.

184. Fill material shall be pushed into cut areas and up over backslopes. Leave no depressions that will trap water or form ponds.

186. Use seed that is certified and free of noxious weeds.

187. Additional seed applications may be required to accommodate specific site conditions or if initial seed germination has failed.

188. Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in table B1. These mixes are based on range sites as determined by soils.

189. Leave the disturbed area in a condition that provides drainage with no additional maintenance.

Table B-1. Standard Seed Mixes

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/Acre	Range sites
1	Siberian wheatgrass (P27)	3	Alkaline Uplands, Badlands, Clayey 7"-9", Clayey Salt Desert, Cold Desert Breaks, Cold Desert Overflow, Gravelly 7"-9", Limey Cold Desert, Loamy 7"-9", Loamy Cold Desert, Loamy Salt Desert, Saline Lowland, Salt Desert Breaks, Salt Flats, Salt Meadow Sands 7"-9", Sandy 7"-9", Sandy Cold Desert, Sandy Salt Desert, Shale 7"-9", Shale/Sands Complex, Shallow Loamy, Shallow Sandy, Shallow Slopes, Silty Salt Desert, Silty Swale, Steep
	Russian wildrye (Bozoisky)	2	
	Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	3	
	Double rates for broadcast seeding.		

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: A large array of migratory birds fulfills nesting functions throughout the Resource Area's woodland and shrubland habitats during the months of May, June, and July. Migratory birds typically found in these lower-elevation juniper and Wyoming big sagebrush habitats are common and widely distributed in the region. Those populations identified as having higher conservation interest (i.e., Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Partners in Flight program, see table below) appear to be stable and well distributed at appropriate densities in extensive suitable habitats.

Migratory Birds with High Conservation Priority by Habitat Association in WRR

Salt desert	sagebrush	Pinyon-juniper
sage sparrow	Brewer's sparrow green-tailed towhee	gray flycatcher , Pinyon jay, juniper titmouse, black-throat gray warbler, violet-green swallow

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed drilling program is confined to a barren soil and rock outcrop with a perimeter of sparse sagebrush, greasewood, and juniper. Minor upgrading of unimproved roads to the project site, vehicle access across the outcrop, and cross-country drilling activity would involve little, if any, vegetation as substrate for nesting birds. The proposed drilling program would occur during the early winter months, thereby avoiding all potential disruption of nest sites and nesting attempts. Infrequent, periodic, and low-intensity monitoring activities, regardless of timeframes, would be considered casual use and would not be expected to disrupt breeding attempts of birds in adjacent sagebrush or pinyon-juniper stands.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no potential for periodic monitoring activities to disrupt migratory bird breeding attempts in adjacent habitats.

Mitigation: None

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no threatened, endangered, or BLM-sensitive animals known to inhabit or derive important benefit from the proposed project site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no effect on animals listed under the Endangered Species Act or those considered sensitive by BLM.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: same as the proposed action

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The Public Land Health Standard for threatened & endangered species is not applicable to this action, since neither the proposed or no-action alternative would have any influence on populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status animals.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species occurring within the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: There is no reasonable likelihood that the proposed action or no action alternative would have an influence on the condition or function of Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant species. Thus, there would be no effect on achieving the land health standard.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at this site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial

preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: Proposed activities are situated about 8 ephemeral channel miles from the nearest riparian habitat -the margin of Kenney Reservoir on the White River.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on riparian or wetland communities.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts from the no-action alternative are not anticipated.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The Public Land Health Standard for riparian communities is not applicable to this action, since neither the proposed or no-action alternative would have any influence on riparian or wetland resources.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACEC's, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, Wilderness Study Areas, or Wild and Scenic Rivers exist within the area affected by the proposed action. Impacts to air and water quality are not anticipated; currently water quality meets the Land Health Standards and would continue to meet the standard as a result of the proposed action. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The soils have been mapped by the NRCS in an order III soil survey. This survey is available for review at the White River Field Office. Below is a table of the soils encounter by the proposed action and properties of each soil type.

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Range site	Salinity	RunOff	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
53	Moyerson stony clay loam	15-65%	Clayey Slopes	2-4	Rapid	Very high	10-20
74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock Outcrop complex	5-65%	PJ Woodlands/Clayey Slopes	<2	Medium	Moderate to very high	10-20

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: A temporary increase in soil erosion is expected until successful reclamation is completed.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts from the no action alternative are not anticipated.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The soils in the area are meeting the Land Health Standards and would continue to do so as a result of the proposed action.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located on a rocky ridgeline/hillslope that is within a Pinion-Juniper Woodland ecological site. This site consists of vegetation that is dominated by an overstory of pinions, junipers, big sagebrush, with an understory dominated by western wheatgrass.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action involves a rather limited amount of surface disturbance at a moderate intensity within a confined area. Therefore, vegetative impacts are anticipated to be negligible as the proposed action calls for a reseeding of disturbed areas. A small segment of the vegetation community will temporarily be taken out of production due to activities of the proposed action. Also, the general area of the action has been invaded by cheatgrass, with potential for cheatgrass invasion within the disturbed area. However, reseeding efforts should provide a vegetation community within the disturbed areas that will provide competitive interactions between seeded species and cheatgrass, thus lessening the potential for cheatgrass invasion and dominance.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: The proposed action states that following project completion, the tracks will be ripped and reseeded. Standard Seed Mix #1 should be used for this action.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The majority of the of the proposed action's locality is currently meeting Land Health Standards for plant communities. However, a portion of the hillslope within the proposed action is not fully meeting the Standard as there is a lack of

desirable vegetation at appreciable levels. The causal factor for this situation is that the slope has served as a historic bedground for authorized livestock (sheep). This occurrence is within an isolated area of the landscape, thus overall Standards for plant communities are being met. The proposed action will not have a negative impact toward meeting required standards.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Proposed activities are situated about 8 ephemeral channel miles from the nearest aquatic habitat--Kenney Reservoir on the White River.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on aquatic habitats or organisms.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: no affect

Mitigation: none

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities is not applicable to this action, since neither the proposed or no-action alternative would have any influence on aquatic organisms or habitats.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The lower elevation juniper-sagebrush community encompassing the proposed project site is occupied by deer and elk during the mid-winter to early spring months (November-April). These ranges are considered severe winter range for deer, a component of winter range that supports 90% of herd's population during winters of heavy snow accumulation and severe cold. An on-site inspection of the project site in March 2004 revealed no evidence of raptor nesting in woodlands potentially influenced by activity at the project site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would involve relatively moderate intensity and localized drilling activity during the late fall and early winter months. The project site is situated in close proximity to existing roads that likely see their maximum use during the fall and winter big game hunting seasons. Although drilling and vehicle activity would likely contribute to the displacement of wintering deer and elk from the immediate project vicinity, the effects of displacement (e.g., disuse of available resources, energetic costs) would be temporary, diminutive in scope, and involve very few animals. Because big game use during these timeframes is relatively low density, particularly near existing forms of vehicle access, and the weather generally clement, the nutritional and energetic costs of this project on big game are considered nominal and recoverable.

Any potential reproductive activities of nongame wildlife, including raptors, would be complete by the time proposed activities commenced.

Infrequent, short term, and low-intensity monitoring activities confined to this outcrop site would not be expected to have any measurable influence on big game winter distribution or nongame reproductive efforts.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no potential influences on big game winter distribution (associated with the drilling program) or nongame reproductive activities (post-drill monitoring). The potential for wildland fire is not considered a predictable consequence of the no-action alternative, since this site has apparently prompted no fires over the past 50 or more years and frequent summer lightning may result in similar effects.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities is not applicable to this action, since neither the proposed or no-action alternative would have any measurable influence on the utility or condition of Public rangelands as wildlife habitat.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management		X	
Geology and Minerals			X
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Paleontology		X	
Rangeland Management			X
Realty Authorizations	X		
Recreation		X	
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources		X	
Wild Horses	X		

GEOLOGY AND MINERALS

Affected Environment: The project is located on the Southwest flank of the Red Wash syncline. It is in the Upper Cretaceous age Lower Williams Fork formation of the Mesaverde

Group. Which is an interbedded siltstone, shale, carbonaceous shale and coal with thin often calcareous lenses of fine to very fine grained silty well-cemented sandstone. The coal outcrop may be the surface expression of the seams that are currently being mined at the Deserado Mine. It is located approximately 1 ½ miles west of existing federal coal lease COC-8424. This area is identified in the White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) as suitable for surface and underground coal development.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If the process works, the coal seam fire will be extinguished and the coal resources will be protected from further depletion by the ongoing fire. Information obtained during the project will give a better understanding of seam fires and mitigation measures used in trying to control them.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The seam would continue to burn and create potential for wildfires and hazardous surface conditions in the area of subsidence.

Mitigation: None

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The proposed action is within the Spooky Mountain Allotment (06316), which is authorized for sheep use by Cross Mountain Ranch (0501485). The ranch can be authorized to graze sheep from 11/20 through 05/09. The proposed action is located on a rocky ridgeline/hillslope that is within a Pinion-Juniper Woodland ecological site. This site consists of vegetation that is dominated by an overstory of pinions, junipers, big sagebrush, with an understory dominated by western wheatgrass.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action involves a rather limited amount of surface disturbance at a moderate intensity within a confined area. Therefore, long term rangeland impacts are anticipated to be negligible as the proposed action calls for a reseeding of disturbed areas.

During the overlap timeframe of the proposed action's activities and authorized sheep grazing (October – mid December), possible conflicts may arise as this area is favored by sheep for bedding on the slopes. However, these conflicts should be able to be mitigated by the permittee, as the ranch has the ability to herd sheep to different localities during this timeframe.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: None

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Mike Selle	Archeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Robert Fowler	Forester	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Marty O'Mara	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	ORP	Wilderness
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Soils
Jed Carling	Rangeland Specialist	Vegetation
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	ORP	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Jed Carling	Rangeland Specialist	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	ORP	Recreation
Max McCoy	NRS	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	NRS	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to allow the drilling of approximately 20 holes 40-60 feet deep into the underlying coal seam fire and inject benign foams into the wells to attempt to extinguish the coal seam fire. Included in this is the short term and long term casual use monitoring of some of the wells.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items,

sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

3. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

4. All disturbed sites shall be promptly reclaimed to the satisfaction of the Area Manager.

5. Reclamation should be implemented concurrent with construction and site operations to the fullest extent possible. Final reclamation actions shall be initiated within six months of the termination of operations unless otherwise approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

6. The goal for rehabilitation of any disturbed area shall be the permanent restoration of original site conditions and productive capability.

7. Disturbed areas shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original contour.

8. Fill material shall be pushed into cut areas and up over backslopes. Leave no depressions that will trap water or form ponds.

9. Use seed that is certified and free of noxious weeds.

10. Additional seed applications may be required to accommodate specific site conditions or if initial seed germination has failed.

11. The proposed action states that following project completion, the tracks will be ripped and reseeded. Standard Seed Mix #1 should be used for this action. Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in table B1. These mixes are based on range sites as determined by soils.

Table B-1. Standard Seed Mixes

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/Acre	Range sites
1	Siberian wheatgrass (P27)	3	Alkaline Uplands, Badlands, Clayey 7"-9", Clayey Salt Desert, Cold Desert Breaks, Cold Desert Overflow, Gravelly 7"-9", Limey Cold Desert, Loamy 7"-9", Loamy Cold Desert, Loamy Salt Desert, Saline Lowland, Salt Desert Breaks, Salt Flats, Salt Meadow Sands 7"-9", Sandy 7"-9", Sandy Cold Desert, Sandy Salt Desert, Shale 7"-9", Shale/Sands Complex, Shallow Loamy, Shallow Sandy, Shallow Slopes, Silty Salt Desert, Silty Swale, Steep
	Russian wildrye (Bozoisky)	2	
	Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	3	
	Double rates for broadcast seeding.		

12. Leave the disturbed area in a condition that provides drainage with no additional maintenance

13. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: N/A

NAME OF PREPARER: Paul Daggett

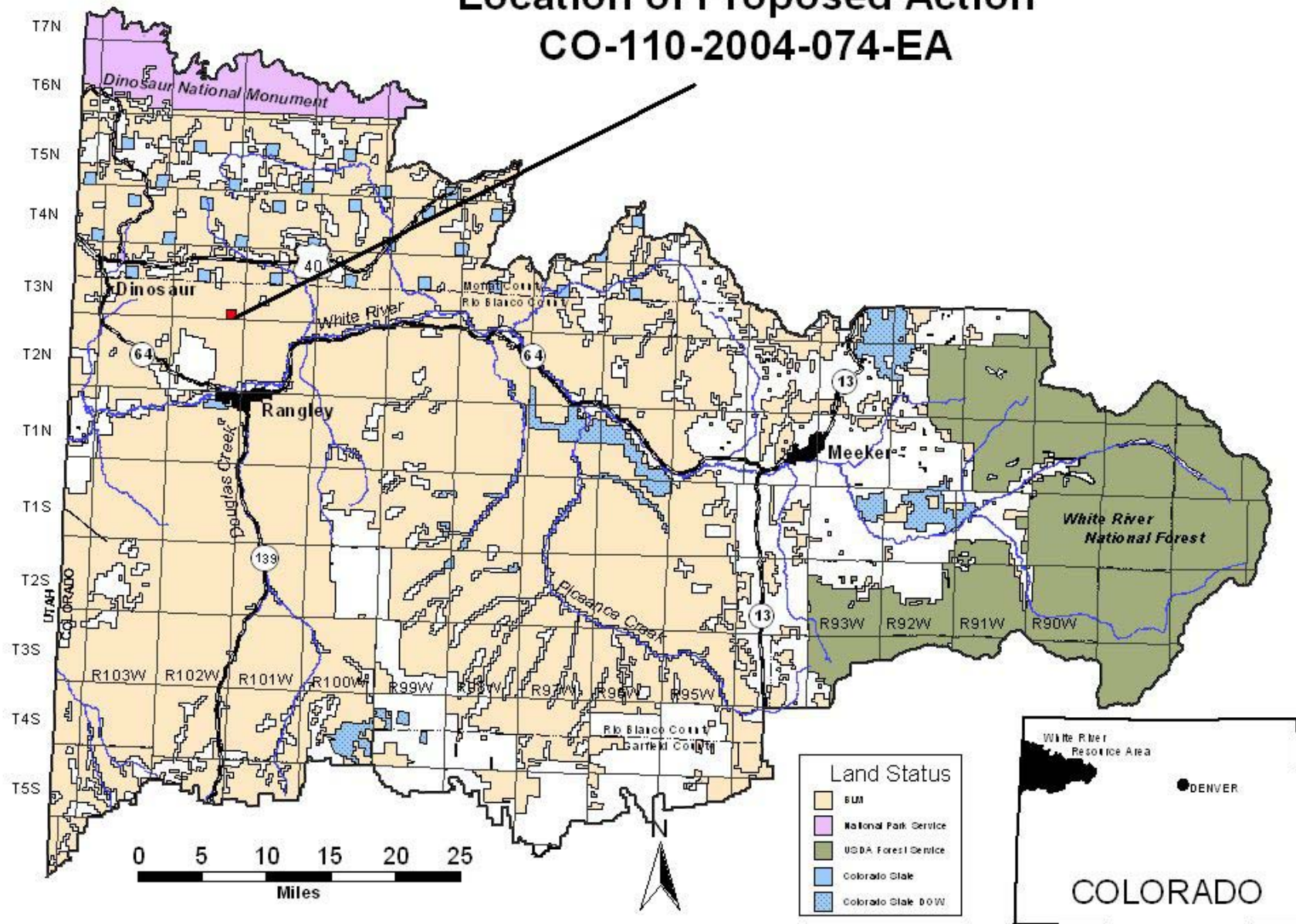
NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: *Caroline P. Halstead 6/1/04*

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: *Thant C. Walter*
Field Manager

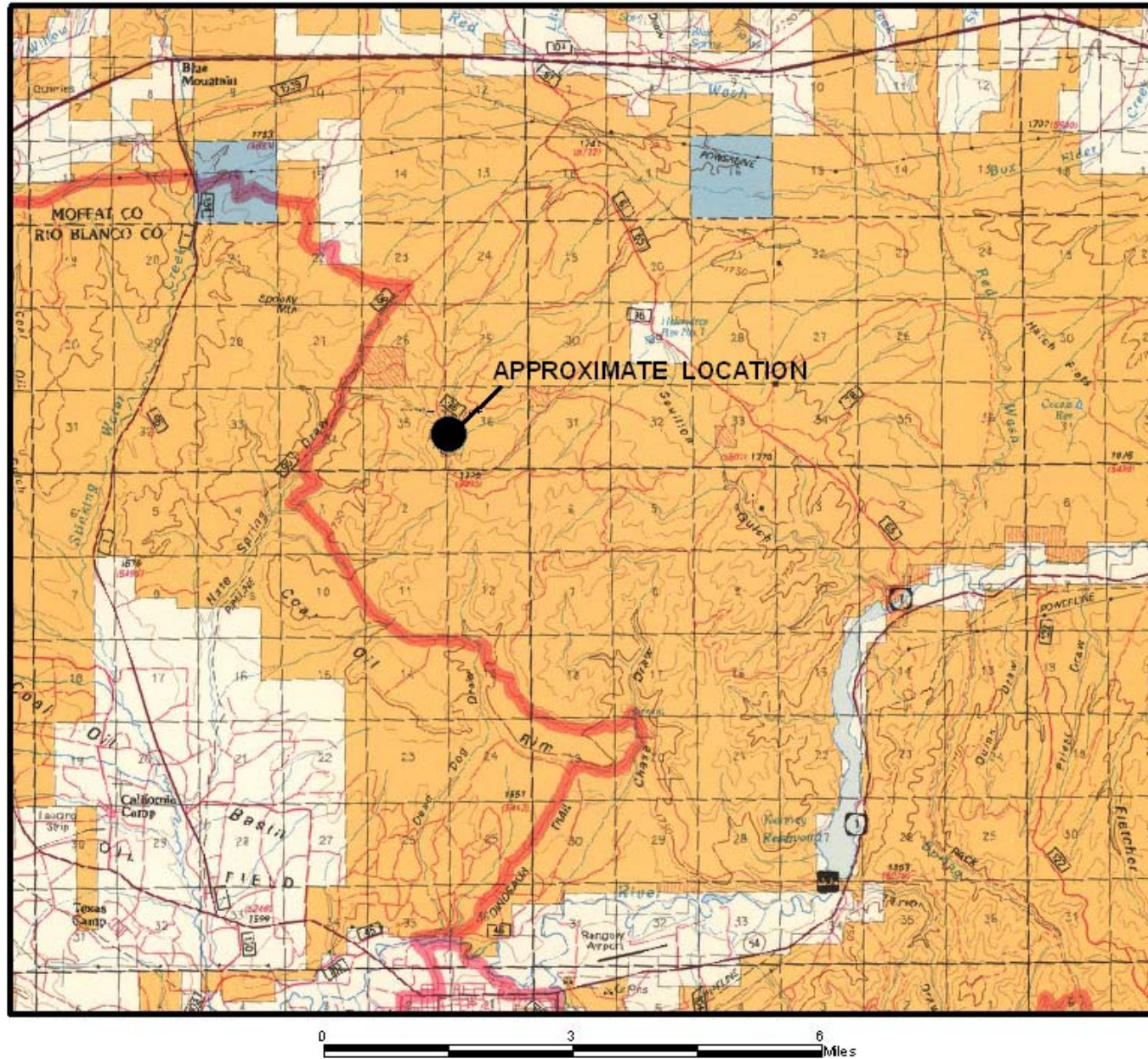
DATE SIGNED: *6/01/04*

ATTACHMENTS: Map of the Location of the Proposed Action
Map of Location at scale = 1:100,000
Map of Proposed Action at scale = 1:24,000

Location of Proposed Action CO-110-2004-074-EA



Skull Creek Mine Fire Project

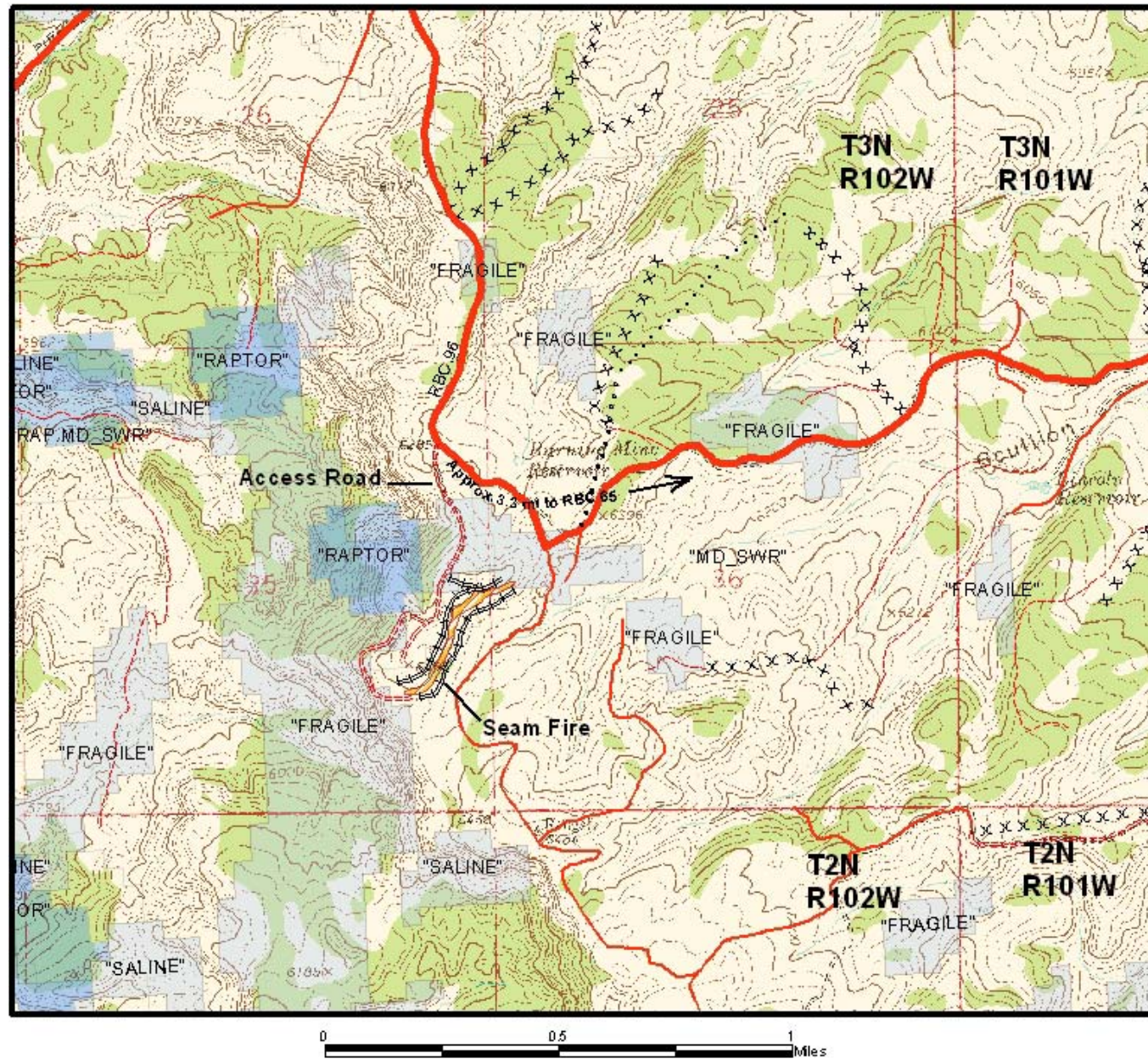


Sec. 35 & 36
T3N, R102W, 6th PM
Rangely NE USGS 7.5' Quad



03/03/2004

Skull Creek Mine Fire Project



Sec. 35 & 36
T3N, R102W, 6th PM
Rangely NE USGS 7.5' Quad



- Legend**
- BLM
 - DOE_NOSR
 - FOREST
 - NPS_DNM
 - PRIVATE
 - STATE DOW
 - STATE LAND BOARD
 - FIRE SURFACE EXPRESSION
- Roads**
- BLM.1739
 - CLOSED & ABANDONED
 - DRILL TRACK & HOLE LOC
 - FENCES PERMITTED
 - OPEN MOTORIZED
 - OTHER
 - RBC.96
 - NSO
 - CSU
 - TIMING LIMITATIONS

03/03/2004